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General Tracy, the able Secretary of

the Navy in General Harrison's Cab-

inet, is spoken of as a dark horse for the

presidential nomination. He would

make a great President.

If all other arguments against the ad-

mission of States for the sake of having

a voice in the Senate are ignored, it can

be insisted that the country now has

more than Senators enough to talk up

all the time.

Ex-Governor Campbell, of Ohio, is or-

ganizing a stock company in Cincin-

mati for the erection of a huge artificial

ice skating rink. In an emergency it

might be utilized as a cold storage for

presidential booms.

The greater New York, as made by

the Legislature, has an area of 353.75

square miles and a population of 2,955,-

423. And now that Chicago papers find

satisfaction in calling the larger New

York a truck gardening city.

The valuation which a Muncie jury

put upon husbands who are made

drunkards by saloon keepers against

the protests of wives is \$120. It seems

a low appraisal, but there is a very

large number of men whose money

value is very small.

The verdict of \$60,000 damages against

an English physician for disclosing in-

formation obtained in a professional

way, to the great pecuniary damage

and social disgrace of a patient, is

thought to be the heaviest verdict ever

awarded in a slander suit. The evi-

dence in this case showed a brutal dis-

regard of personal rights on the part

of the physician, and the court refused

to tolerate the attempt to elevate the

code of medical ethics into a higher law.

If the census is true, Montana should

not complain if the price of her silver

is not doubled by an act of Congress. In

1890 Montana had a larger per capita

wealth than any other State in the

Union except one. Last year the ag-

gregate yield of her mines was \$49,083,261.

In addition to her mineral output, she

sold \$12,000,000 worth of cattle from her

ranches, and her wool clip brought \$2,-

500,000. There is no more fertile farm-

land in the world than Montana's

valleys afford.

There is general agreement among

the members of the rivers and harbors

committee who recently inspected the

upper Ohio river that it ought to be im-

proved, and the beginning of a liberal

appropriation for the purpose will prob-

ably be recommended. If the naviga-

bility of the stream the year round can

be secured by a reasonable expenditure

it should be done. It is one of the

natural interior waterways of the country,

and if its navigability can be main-

tained it would be a great benefit to a

large extent of territory.

The deceased wife's sister is trying to

creep into England through the back

door. The House of Lords will not per-

mit the passage of a law authorizing

the marriage of a man to his deceased

wife's sister, but as these marriages are

times as much. The cost certainly is

small when it is considered that the

murderer was convicted. The expenses

of the Rooker trial are probably not far

short of the Holmes figures, and Rooker

gets off free.

AUTHORS AND THEIR MONEY.

In his "editor's study" in Harper's

Magazine Charles Dudley Warner reads

authors a lecture which will probably

cause most members of the literary pro-

fession to look around and wonder at

which of their number his remarks are

directed, knowing themselves to be in-

nocent; they will also be apt to resent

his implied classification of them all as

spendthrifts. Mr. Warner says that

within this century not a few authors

"have brought themselves into most dis-

treasing conditions, have put themselves

under the harrow, as it were, by an ad-

dition to live as only the very rich can

afford to live. With a little, or some-

times a considerable, success they have

launched out upon an expensive scale

of living, built up houses, set up glit-

terizing establishments, planned country

places ambitiously, and ever after strug-

gled to maintain themselves in falling

health and broken spirits. In a less de-

gree other writers have been bitten

with a desire to shine in a society the

passport to which is money, and to live

in the luxury of the rich who have in-

herited wealth or made it by fortunate

speculations." He does not deny the

justice of their belief that the gains of

literature ought to enable them to have

as much of this world's goods as falls

to the lot of other occupations, but he

insists that "this conception leads to an

ignoble struggle, in which the dignity

of literature is lost and peace of mind

is sacrificed."

"Why," he asks, "should the young

aspirant for immortality or the scholar

who enjoys the intellectual riches of the

world care for vulgar display or seek

to rival those whose only enjoyment is

in material things? Why should he de-

grade his high calling by yielding to the

commercial spirit? Why cannot he

stand upon the dignity of letters with-

out entering into a rivalry for luxury

which is certain to impair his capacity

for the highest work?" He confesses

that he does not think any literary

workers are overpaid, and admits that

many of them are shamefully under-

paid, but he is "sure all of them would

have greater peace of mind, enjoy quite

as much reputation and more surely up-

hold the dignity of their profession if

they were content to live in simplicity

within their reasonable earnings, and

not embitter their lives in a vain ri-

valry with the children of Mammon."

Mr. Warner evidently speaks from the

standpoint of the publisher whose cus-

tom it is to pay to the author 10 per

cent, on each of his volumes sold, re-

taining the remaining 90 per cent. as

his own share. Thus, from a book re-

tailing at one dollar the writer whose

brains produced it receives 10 cents,

while the publisher who is responsible

for the mechanical work pockets the

rest. The publisher is, of course, ani-

mated by a purely commercial spirit,

and his desire to accumulate an in-

come which will enable him to gratify

his taste for "material things" cannot

be counted against him. But why the

writer or scholar should be warned

against indulgence in such tastes is not

clear to the comprehension of persons

who, through lack of experience, cannot

take the publishers' view. The author,

by reason of his refined and intellectual

tastes, longs to be surrounded by the

choicest products of art and civilization.

He is not so intellectual but that he en-

joys the beauty of art and nature, and

the luxury of art and nature, and the

proper rewards of labor. He cannot

feel that the "dignity of letters" would

suffer by his possession of these things,

or that he is "degrading his high call-

ing" by seeking to supply himself and

his family with the means to live as

his friends in other professions do. The

tradition that the author is at his best

when he works in a garret and goes

hungry half his time should have been

destroyed long ago, the weight of evi-

dence being to the contrary. In a gen-

eral way it is true enough that in-

creased simplicity of living is desir-

able, but this is a truth which can be

applied to the individual, not to the

profession. The writer who is not pro-

gressive as to believe that as large a

debt for a city as charter and State Con-

stitution will permit is entirely essen-

tial to the happiness and prosperity of

those who feel the burden of taxation. A

city which is compelled to pay 12 or 15

per cent of the money it raises by tax-

ation for interest is handicapped, and its

officials, instead of increasing such a

burden, should seek to reduce it rather

than to increase it in favor of a prop-

osition to increase burdens by favoring

an expenditure for advantage of a very

few. Revenues from taxation should be

expended for the benefit of the large

majority if not for all. Those who ad-

vocate taxing the city to maintain in-

stitutions which can benefit a very small

number are not so devoted to assail

that socialism which demands that

property shall be devoted to the interest

of all. There is reason to believe that

Mayor Taggart's intimation that the

city may use the money which the Belt

road turns over to redeem its bonds,

and which does not belong to it, to aid

the establishment of a university, will

not be greeted with vociferous approval

by the mass of taxpaying citizens.

LACKING ELEMENTS IN AMERICAN

FARM LIFE.

A Washington dispatch to the Jour-

nal a few days ago stated that the

United States consul at Geneva had

forwarded to the State Department a

communication addressed to him by the

president of the Swiss national expo-

sition to be held this year. The writer

suggested that Americans might learn

how rural life can be made at once at-

tractive and profitable by studying the

model Swiss village, which will form an

important section of the exposition, il-

lustrating, as it will, the happy village

life of the Swiss, with the numerous

home industries which are so profitable

in full operation. The writer thought

that if this could be studied in connec-

tion with the agricultural section, Amer-

icans might obtain valuable informa-

tion towards solving the problem of

how to make farm life more attractive,

and thus lessen the evil of overcrowd-

ed city populations.

The Swiss are very thrifty, and it is

the duty of the president of the expo-

sition to advertise its attractions. Nev-

ertheless, the subject is worth study-

ing. American farm life is in some re-

spects more isolated and less attractive

than that of any other country, and no

doubt this has something to do with the

steady movement of population from

the country to cities. The disproportion-

ate growth of city and country popu-

lations during the last fifteen or twen-

ty years, as shown by census reports,

indicates the existence of general dis-

content among farmers and their fam-

ilies with the conditions of farm life.

That the discontent exists, especially

among the younger generation of farm

people, is beyond doubt. It has been

evidenced in many ways, and has been

the subject of considerable discussion.

Its origin and cause furnish an inter-

esting theme of speculation. There are

other causes for it, but there is reason

to believe that a potent one is the

unattractiveness, and especially the al-

most total lack of social element in

American farm life. From the latter

cause the heart hunger and the soul

weariness suffered by so many farmers'